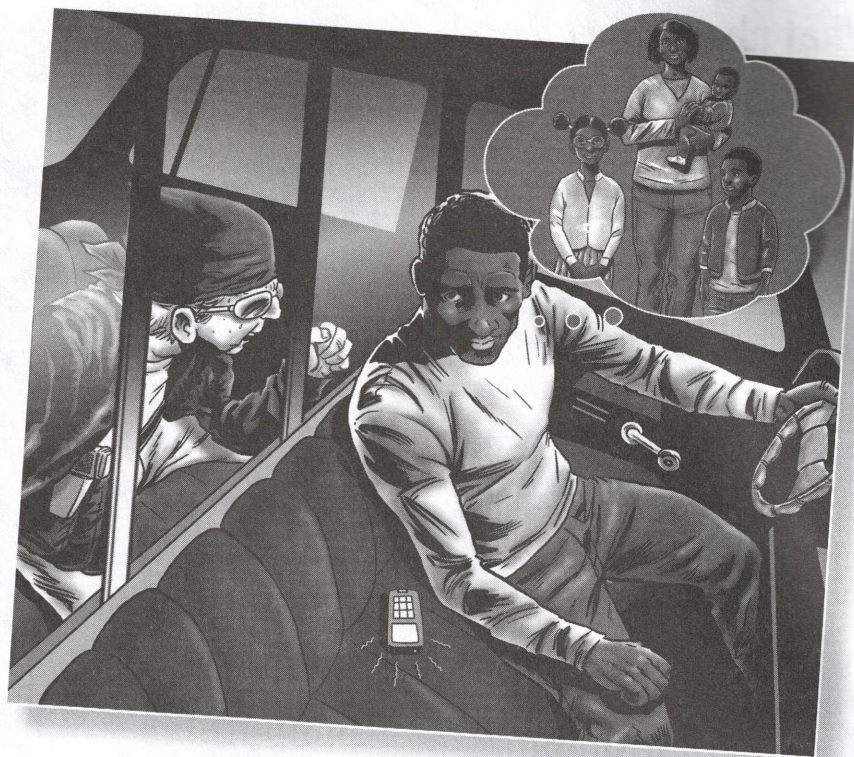


Chapter 7 A Horrible Thought



Negasi feels very frightened. A horrible thought goes through his mind. This man is going to take his money and shoot him. Then Negasi will die and leave his wife and children all alone.

Now Negasi hears sirens. He knows the man hears them, too. It's a very cold evening, but this man is sweating. The man unzips his jacket. In his rearview mirror, Negasi sees the gun and three or four black bags. Negasi imagines there is money inside. He thinks this man committed a robbery.

Now Negasi's cell phone is ringing. Negasi is sure it's Ayana. And she is probably very worried. Negasi always calls Ayana when he's late. But the man tells Negasi not to answer the phone.

It's getting dark now. Negasi drives around for another forty-five minutes. "I'm almost out of gas," says Negasi. The man looks at the gas gauge in Negasi's taxi. It's true. This taxi can't go much farther. The man looks out the window and sees a Metro station. (The subway in Washington, D.C., is called the Metro.)



"Stop here," says the man. Many people are going down the escalator into the Metro station. And without another word, the man zips up his jacket, gets out of the taxi, and disappears into the crowd.

Negasi puts his head on the steering wheel. He sighs with relief. "No fare. No tip. Not even a plastic bag of shredded money," thinks Negasi. "But I'm alive!"

Answer the questions.

1. How does Negasi feel?
2. What horrible thought goes through Negasi's mind?
3. What does Negasi hear? Who does he know hears them, too?
4. What does Negasi see in his rearview mirror?
5. What does Negasi think this man committed?
6. What is ringing? Who is Negasi sure it is?
7. How much longer does Negasi drive around?
8. What is he almost out of?
9. What does the man look out the window and see?
10. What does the man do?

Complete the sentences.

imagines
hears

shoot
unzips

committed
sees

goes through
is sweating

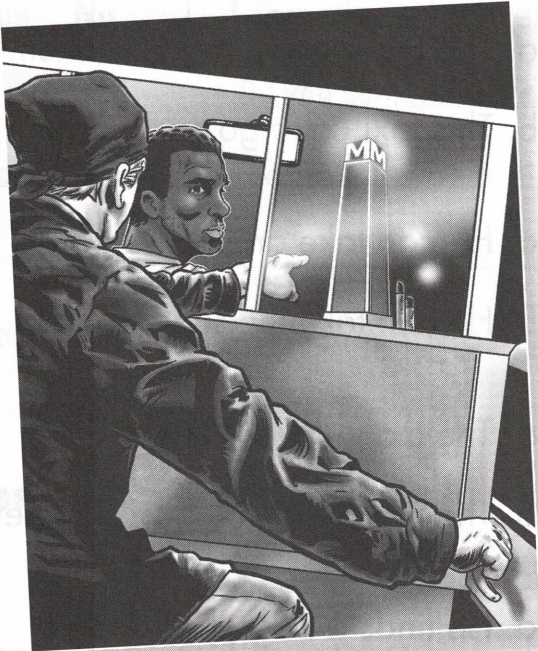
1. A horrible thought _____ Negasi's mind.
2. This man is going to take his money and _____ him.
3. Now Negasi _____ sirens. He knows the man hears them, too.
4. It's a very cold evening, but this man _____.
5. The man _____ his jacket.
6. Negasi _____ the gun and three or four black bags.
7. Negasi _____ there is money inside.
8. He thinks this man _____ a robbery.

Matching: Definitions

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. sirens | a. the crime of stealing money or things |
| _____ 2. gas gauge | b. moving steps that carry people up and down |
| _____ 3. crowd | c. the instrument that tells how much fuel a vehicle has |
| _____ 4. steering wheel | d. a large group of people in one place |
| _____ 5. escalator | e. things that make a very loud sound |
| _____ 6. robbery | f. the round thing that a driver turns to control direction |

Talking About the Gas Gauge

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: I'm almost out of gas.

B: I don't believe you.

A: It's true! Look at the gas gauge.

B: Is that a Metro station?

A: Yes, it is.

B: Stop here.

A: No fare. No tip. Not even a plastic bag of shredded money. But I'm alive!

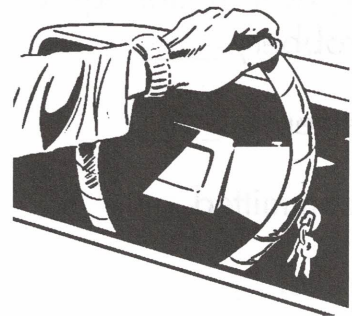
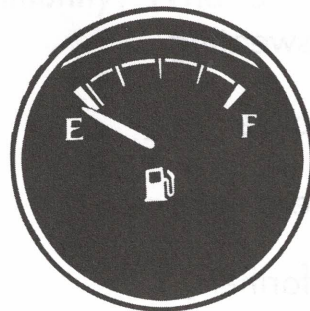
Matching

Match the words and pictures of things in Negasi's taxi. Write the words on the lines below.

gas gauge

steering wheel

rearview mirror



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1. a. Negasi will be frightened.
 b. Negasi will die.
2. a. The police are nearby.
 b. The cell phone is ringing.
3. a. This man is sweating.
 b. This man committed a robbery.
4. a. She is probably very worried.
 b. She is probably all alone.
5. a. The rearview mirror is broken.
 b. This taxi can't go much farther.
6. a. He can take another taxi.
 b. He can take the subway.
7. a. The man leaves Negasi.
 b. The man steals Negasi's money.
8. a. He finds a bag of shredded money.
 b. He sighs with relief.

Pronunciation and Writing

Say the words from the story. Write the number of syllables in each word. Underline the stressed syllable.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. frightened _____ | 6. probably _____ | 11. disappears _____ |
| 2. robbery _____ | 7. sweating _____ | 12. sirens _____ |
| 3. steering _____ | 8. alive _____ | 13. Metro _____ |
| 4. committed _____ | 9. escalator _____ | 14. horrible _____ |
| 5. relief _____ | 10. farther _____ | 15. imagines _____ |

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes **No** 1. I sometimes feel very frightened.

Do you sometimes feel very frightened?

Yes **No** 2. I sometimes hear sirens.

Yes **No** 3. I sometimes see a gun.

Yes **No** 4. I always call someone when I am late.

Yes **No** 5. I sometimes sigh with relief.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Do people sometimes commit robberies in your community? If so, where do they commit them?
2. What instruments are inside of a car? What information do they give people?
3. Is there a subway in your community? What other public transportation does your community have?